

U. S. RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL POWERS HANG BY A THREAD

Ancona Note Delivered Today to Austria Heralded as Most Drastic Issued Since Outbreak of Europe's War.

Inauguration of Sterner Policy Also to Be Marked by Pressure on Lusitania Claim and Ousting of Toiton Agents.

Relations between this country and the central powers of Europe are hanging on a thread.

Never since the outbreak of the war in Europe has the United States been nearer the point of breaking off diplomatic negotiations with Austria and Germany.

The present situation, fraught as it is with the gravest possibilities, is a development of what is generally conceded to be the adoption of a new policy. A mailed fist rather than a gloved hand would seem now to be guiding our foreign policy.

America's demands on Austria growing out of the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona and the resultant loss of life, are now in the hands of the Austrian government. A cablegram received at the State Department today from Ambassador Penfield at Vienna states that he delivered the note to Count Burian, the Austrian foreign minister, on Thursday.

HERALDED AS DRASTIC.

By mutual agreement the text of the communication will be made public Monday morning. Pending its publication, officials of the State Department decline absolutely to disclose its contents. It has been heralded for a week as one of the most drastic messages ever sent by this Government to a belligerent power since the outbreak of the war.

The relations between this country and Germany are no less critical. Smarting under the action of this Government in demanding the recall of Captain von Papen and Baron von Helldorf, the military and naval attaches, respectively, of the German embassy, Germany has permitted the negotiations for a settlement of the Lusitania controversy to become deadlocked. Under the terms of the agreement, Germany is expected to wipe out all misunderstanding between the two countries growing out of the Lusitania case, and negotiations have proceeded only far enough to show that Germany backs out.

(Continued on Second Page.)

RIGID PROBE BEGUN AT WRECKED PLANT

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., Dec. 11.—With extra armed guards on duty, Federal and State agents today were conducting a rigid probe into the origin of the explosion at the Bethlehem munition plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company yesterday that caused the death of one man and serious injuries to fifteen others.

The injured are all being attended at St. Luke's Hospital here. Four are in a precarious condition and probably will not survive, physicians said today.

The cause of the explosion, as given out officially today, was that it was due to a powder flare in a pellet house. The accident was so sudden, its results so disastrous, and its actual causes so effectively obliterated by the explosion that it is feared its exact origin may never be revealed.

The sides of the building were blown out by the explosion. In the building are said to have been several hundred pounds of powder. In automobile ambulances all the injured were rushed six miles to St. Luke's Hospital here.

British Steamer Busiris Is Sunk by a Submarine

LONDON, Dec. 11.—The British steamer Busiris has been sunk by a submarine. The crew was landed at Alexandria.

Dr. Dumba's Successor May Follow Him Home

Simultaneous with announcement today that the American note on the Ancona incident had been delivered by Ambassador Penfield to the Austrian foreign office, it became known that Baron Zweidnek temporary successor to Dr. Dumba as Austria's representative here, stands in grave danger of following the latter home by request of the United States.

He was in conference with Secretary Lansing for half an hour this afternoon.

The most startling evidence against any Austrian official yet was laid before Secretary Lansing today in the form of photographs of letters bearing Baron Zweidnek's signature. They were written from Manchester, N. H., in August, 1914, to the consulate general at New York, and indicated plans for wholesale misuse or forgery of American passports.

ASKS ANNUAL CAMP FOR SCHOOL CADETS

Assistant Superintendent Kramer Urges Larger Activities for the Regiment.

A plea for an enlargement of the activities of the high school cadet regiment including an annual enlargement is made by S. E. Kramer, assistant superintendent of schools, in his annual report, contained in the annual report of the Board of Education, made public today.

The report contains the annual report, in full, of E. L. Thurston, superintendent of schools, which already has been made public.

Mr. Kramer's report deals largely with the activities of the cadet regiment. A more progressive course in military instruction and the working out of some plan whereby the regiment may be able to participate in an annual camp, conducted under the direction of the "Salvo" army, are among the recommendations. Mr. Kramer makes.

New vocational and industrial work is described by E. N. Macintosh, principal, in his report. He mentions the work done in the "model apartment" for housekeeping classes at 1201 K street northeast, and of the extension of carpentry work to sixth grade pupils in four schools.

More Nurses Asked.

Thirteen school nurses instead of the five now employed, are asked by Mr. Murch. Many defects in the physical condition of pupils, the report states, have been corrected through the nurses.

A strong plea also is made by Mr. Murch for the extension of the school playground summer work, of which he has been in charge.

An ungraded school for girls, similar to that for incorrigible boys, is recommended in the report of Sadie L. Lewis, chief attendance officer, and the girls are still a problem," she states. "The cause between the graded school and the police or juvenile courts, there is no school of any kind in which we can as we can with boys work with them and give them a trial in another school environment before we need to take action against them in court."

A larger appropriation for night school classes is urgently needed, according to Mr. Murch.

Tells of Domestic Science Work.

New York in domestic science, especially that at the Smallwood and the Lenox and B. R. French schools, is described by Miss Emma S. Alcock, director of domestic science.

Courses in home management, in short-story writing, introduced in Central High School for the first time during the year, are described in the report of Henry Wilson, principal of that school.

WOMAN SAVED FROM HANGING IN ALBERTA

Sentenced to Death for Killing Husband's Paramour—To Serve Ten Years.

OTTAWA, Ontario, Dec. 11.—The women of Alberta have won their fight to save the life of Mrs. Annie Hawkes, of MacLeod, sentenced to hang for the killing of her husband's paramour.

Announcement was made today that executive clemency has been extended and the sentence commuted to ten years' imprisonment.

Hundreds of petitions protesting against the death sentence imposed upon Mrs. Hawkes were received here. The plea was made that Mrs. Hawkes killed the woman, who had been brought into her home, while in a state of hysteria.

Sleet Storm in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—The first sleet storm of the winter crippled wire service in Illinois today. Springfield was completely isolated.

ASSERTS PARK SYSTEM HERE IS INEFFICIENT

Thomas Skornpa, Landscape Gardener, Declares Worst Form Prevails.

SEES NO HOPE OF A CHANGE

Blames Lack of Pride on Part of People and Passion for Economy.

"The utter lack of anything like that pride of possession by the people that stimulates and maintains interest on the one hand, and the passion for economy on the part of untrained officials which is really the worst form of extravagance, will effectively prevent the development of any system of public parks in Washington that will be the careful and beautiful places the National Capital should have."

Thus spoke Thomas Skornpa, expert horticulturist, landscape gardener and park superintendent, who, after two months' work as superintendent of the northwest division of the parks of Washington, has resigned in disgust. He will return to Chicago tomorrow to resume his work there, where, he declares, public parks are the pride of the people and where the people maintain the parks in the best of order. He will return to Chicago tomorrow to resume his work there, where, he declares, public parks are the pride of the people and where the people maintain the parks in the best of order.

"Worst Form of Extravagance."

Mr. Skornpa is a graduate of one of the oldest institutions in Europe for the training of horticulturists and landscape artists—the horticultural college of Vienna. He came to the United States about ten years ago and was employed by the west park commission and the northwest park commission of Chicago for nine years. These two bodies, elected by the people of the city, are in charge of the parks on Chicago's west and northwest sections, the most densely populated and poorest sections of the city and yet possessing, according to experts, some of the most beautiful and useful parks in the world.

Mr. Skornpa was attracted to Washington because it was the capital of the nation and because with the big opportunities presented by the beautiful buildings and large open spaces, he thought there was a chance to do constructive work that would be an example to other cities. He passed a civil service examination with an average of 90 for the position of park superintendent and came to this city September 13 last. His resignation was accepted November 20 under which the parks of the District of Columbia are conducted is absolutely opposed to good.

(Continued on Third Page.)

T. R., IN BRIEF STAY, PEEPS INTO CAPITOL

Colonel, on Way to Tuskegee, Halts in Washington Two Hours.

Progress was not in sight today. Otherwise, it would have been thrown into consternation by the unexpected visit here of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former President.

The colonel paid only a flying visit to Washington. He was on route to Tuskegee with several friends and he stayed between trains for about two hours. He arrived from New York about 5 and departed about 7.

Meantime, he walked out to the health resort, went to the Capitol looked it over, went inside, saw the Supreme Court rooms and various parts of the building and also took a glance at the Library of Congress. He shook hands with a number of acquaintances.

The colonel was looking fit and in fine physical condition.

Snowstorm Is Due to Reach Capital Tonight

A snowstorm is due to reach Washington tonight.

Today the storm is centered in the Ohio valley, and is moving in a northeasterly direction. While a considerable snowfall already is reported in the Appalachians, it is expected that the temperature is expected to rise above freezing before tomorrow morning, which will bring rain.

Proper Bathing Facilities.

How the city can be furnished with proper bathing facilities is dealt with by the secretary as follows:

"During the past year report was rendered to Congress from this department of the basin, by which two-thirds of the bathing facilities in the Tidal Basin, the studies for the location of the beaches and grounds, with the exception of the temporary use of the basin for swimming purposes, nothing should be planned for permanent bathing establishments there."

"Studies are now in course of preparation in the office of public buildings and grounds, with the assistance and supervision of the National Fine Arts Commission, for the improvement of the large area of the Tidal Basin. These studies include extensive provisions for outdoor swimming pools and pavilions of the most up-to-date kind. It is believed that these plans, if adopted by Congress, will remedy the deplorable lack of bathing facilities in the District of Columbia."

In the summer time has one of the most trying climates in the United States, and the conditions for swimming and bathing are inadequate. Every effort is being made, with full recognition of these facts, to provide a Congress at an early date a satisfactory solution of the problem which will relieve the present conditions."

REFUSE MAKES BASIN CLEAN GARRISON SAYS

Sewage and Tidal Action Pollute River Near Influent, Secretary Reports to Senate.

COST TOO GREAT TO FREE IT

Believes It Impracticable to Build Bathing Beach—Plans Include New Pools.

Pollution of the Potomac river by sewage and otherwise, is emphasized in a letter of Secretary Garrison to the Senate in response to a resolution of last session by Senator Norris asking, among other things, the causes of pollution and contamination of the Tidal Basin. Secretary Garrison replies that the causes of the pollution of the waters of the Tidal Basin are several. He points out that the Potomac itself is polluted though improved near the Influent, to the basin, perhaps, by tidal action.

Polluted At Great Falls.

The Secretary says: "The raw river water at Great Falls is considered polluted for drinking purposes and reaches a satisfactory filtration point only after passing over three settling basins between that point and the source of the raw supply. After passing Great Falls the river water is continually charged with more or less water from the main sources of the basin being Georgetown, Rock Creek, the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and a large sewer near the Lincoln Memorial. This conditions has been considerably mitigated by the recently built intercepting sewer along the river."

Furthermore, the condition of the water in the basin itself is polluted by the direct discharge of sewage from ten toilets in the immediate vicinity into the basin itself and by refuse thrown into the water by the public drinking and fishing grounds. These toilets are not used by many people, but are undeniably the source of some pollution."

Can Free Basin Partly.

That the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says:

"The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

"It is thought that the waters in the Tidal Basin can be free partly from pollution is the opinion expressed. The Secretary says: "The extent of this pollution is not great. Daily examinations of the water of the basin, by means of a number of weeks were made last spring by officials of the Public Health Bureau, and the results showed that the water of the basin was of a high standard of purity. It was not clean enough to drink, but it was of a high standard of purity."

GREEKS BLOCK ALLIES; ANGLO-FRENCH FORCE ABANDONING SERBIA

WAR COUNCIL REACHES "COMPLETE ACCORD."

PARIS, Dec. 11.—"All questions of urgent nature have been settled with complete accord," it is announced today, following another session of the allied war council.

It is presumed that the announcement covers all reported differences concerning the conduct of operations in the Balkans.

The announcement was made after Sir Edward Grey, British foreign minister, Premier Briand, and General Gallieni had held a lengthy conference at the conclusion of the war council sessions.

M'NABB ARGUMENT IN APPEALS COURT

Attorneys for Millionaire Kinney Attack \$30,000 Verdict in Breach of Promise Suit.

Arguments in the appeal from the judgment of the lower court granting Ida M. McNabb a verdict for \$30,000 in her breach of promise suit against John S. Kinney, the wealthy Michigan mine owner, were made in the District Court of Appeals today. The court then recessed until the first Monday in January.

In the brief prepared by Attorneys Harriet Freese, Daniel W. Baker, and Frank J. Hogan, appearing for Kinney, Mrs. McNabb is characterized as "a keen, shrewd woman of fair education, with an eye single to the main chance of 'landing the rich old man'."

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

The McNabb attorneys, including Charles Poe, Henry F. Cochems, Hubert D. Wolfe, and A. D. Dixon, in the arguments of counsel for Mrs. McNabb, the action of Justice Stafford was justified on the ground that evidence the opposing counsel sought to introduce was not relevant to the case, and the court of appeals was asked to affirm the judgment of the lower court.

DECISIVE BATTLE IN BALKANS RAGING WITH BULGARS

Constantine Refuses Concessions to Entente Powers and Negotiations End.

GERMAN PLANS EVIDENT

Re-enforcements Reach British From Saloniki to Help Hold Positions.

ATHENS, Dec. 11.—Greece was refused to make any more concessions to the allied powers at present, it is authoritatively stated.

A few hours after the arrival of unconfirmed reports that the allies were evacuating Serbia, the announcement was made that conversations with the allied diplomats have ended.

One of the decisive battles of the war is believed to be imminent as the allies continue their retreat from Serbia.

The British, it is stated, received artillery and troop reinforcements on Thursday night, and maintained their positions in the face of violent attacks throughout yesterday.

It is admitted, however, that a further British retirement is inevitable, and that English troops already are preparing to fall back on their second line defenses.

REACH CRITICAL STAGE.

Relations between Greece and the allied powers are approaching a critical stage. Greek military officials have been dispatched to the frontier, following their conference with General Sarrahl. Both government officials and allied diplomats display the greatest pessimism today.

King Constantine has informed the entente ambassadors that he cannot yield to their demands. Greek military officers en route to the border have been instructed to report immediately to the King. It is possible that their reports may result in the resumption of negotiations, but Anglo-French diplomats are not hopeful.

Dispatches from Greek frontier points today report that the French forces were compelled to continue their retreat in yesterday's fighting, but contain no mention of the reported evacuation of Serbian territory by the allies.

These dispatches mention no locations and leave in doubt whether the French have retreated to the Greek border as had been rumored.

Force French Retreat.

The battle raged violently along the entire front yesterday. The Bulgarians brought up fresh artillery and finally occupied the greater part of the French positions after pounding them with heavy shells. Early in the fighting the French repulsed several attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the assailants.

Conflicting reports reach here concerning the situation at Gheorghiev. The allies repulsed several attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the assailants.

A message from Florina asserted that a neutral zone has been established by agreement of the hostile commanders at the Greek frontier near that point, and that troops have been instructed neither to occupy nor to fire into the forbidden territory. Many German and Bulgarian wounded are arriving at Monastir, the dispatch said.

The Saloniki reports have not been officially confirmed. It is generally believed here, however, that the Anglo-French forces will complete the evacuation of Serbia today if they do not retire across the border yesterday, and that they will fall back upon Saloniki.

Germany Plans to Drive Across Greek Border After Allies

ROME, Dec. 11.—Dispatches from both Athens and Saloniki today indicate that Germany intends to carry her encircling movement into Greek territory. If German troops have not already crossed the Greek frontier, the combined German, Austrian and Bulgarian armies are expected to make a supreme effort to drive the expeditionary forces back to Saloniki and to the sea.

It is believed probable that Greece will be forced into the conflict, possibly within a fortnight. She may be

The Mysterious Case of Charles Etchison

The puzzling story of a Washington man whose connection with the violent death of a Minnesota woman has placed him and the husband behind prison bars. The dramatic scene in a Chicago hotel when Etchison and his wife knelt in prayer before he told his version of the story. A page of life's drama.

IN TOMORROW'S SUNDAY TIMES